

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 MC-02 ACDA-05

EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 IGA-01 EURE-00

/057 W

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P R 031532Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4350

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

OSAF PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: F-16 COPRODUCTION

REF: A. BRUSSELS 5920 B. BRUSSELS 6002

1. BOLAND, IN CHARGE OF INDUSTRIAL COPRODUCTION MATTERS IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, HAS CALLED EMBASSY RELATIVE TO QUESTION RAISED IN REFTEL A PARA 5B. HE POINTS OUT THAT DATA PROVIDED TO BELGIAN AVIONICS INDUSTRY BY WESTINGHOUSE AND HUGHES IS INADEQUATE BASIS FOR DEVELOPING BIDS. BELGIAN INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES (SYBELEC) HAVE ASKED THEIR GOVERNMENT FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO TREAT AUGUST 22 DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING BIDS FOR RADAR COMPONENT COPRODUCTION. THEY CAN EITHER DECLINE TO BID ON THE

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GROUNDS THAT THE AVAILABLE DATA IS INSUFFICIENT, OR

THEY CAN MAKE ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING THE MISSING DETAILS AND SUBMIT BIDS WITH THE RESERVATION THAT MORE COMPLETE DATA MAY REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS TO THEIR BIDS. BOLAND IS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND WHICHEVER COURSE IS AGREEABLE TO THE USG; HIS CHIEF CONCERN IS THAT THE BELGIAN INDUSTRY RESPONSE MUST NOT MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR BELGIAN INDUSTRY TO OBTAIN ITS FULL SHARE OF RADAR COPRODUCTION.

2. BOLAND SAID THAT ONE ELEMENT OF PROBLEM IS THAT HUGHES IS UNWILLING TO PROVIDE DETAILED DATA ON RADAR COMPONENTS BECAUSE OF FEAR THAT BELGIAN FIRM ACEC, WHOLLY-OWNED WESTINGHOUSE SUBSIDIARY, WILL RELAY THIS DATA TO' WESTINGHOUSE HEADQUARTERS. TIME WILL OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, BUT NOT BEFORE AUGUST 22 DEADLINE FOR BELGIAN BIDS. BOLAND THINKS SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO DESIGNATE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ACEC EMPLOYEES TO DEAL WITH HUGHES DATA ON A CLASSIFIED BASIS, WITH BELGIAN SECURITY APPARATUS OVERSEEING SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

3. BOLAND SAID THAT PROBLEM BETWEEN SYBELEC AND SIEMENS/BELGIUM (REFTEL B) INVOLVES SYBELEC MEMBERS' FEAR THAT COPRODUCTION WORK SECURED BY SIEMENS WILL END UP BEING PERFORMED IN GERMANY, NOT BELGIUM. WE REMARKED THAT THERE SHOULD BE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF THAT BEING A PROBLEM, SINCE MOU IS BETWEEN USG AND FOUR-COUNTRY CONSORTIUM.

4. PLEASE ADDRESS BOLAND'S POINTS IN REPLYING TO REFTELS. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, PRODUCTION, RADAR, F-16, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE06059
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750231-0265
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750784/aaaacswsw.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRUSSELS 5920, 75 BRUSSELS 6002
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-16 COPRODUCTION
TAGS: MASS, BE, US
To: STATE OSAF
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006